

New York. E. Dec. 2 1860.

I was much pleased, My dear Mrs. Gray, to receive your kind & welcome letter of 24 Oct. which reached me some fortnight since - I nothing coveted than you should enjoy your European trip, but that every thing should have turned out so pleasantly, & above all, that your strength should be so greatly recruited. It is indeed, not a joyful hearing, & I heartily congratulate you, & the dear Doctor, on your happiness. As to your English Companion, in Switzerland, I can only say, that if I ever knew a gentleman of the name of Mark, both the man & the fact have escaped my recollection; which I should scarcely think probable in the case of "an old friend" - However, I am glad that even my name should have procured you a passing civility, though I cannot but suppose that some other Mr. Carey was in the mind of your travelling companion - I have been much grieved to hear of poor Bart's serious indisposition - He writes me that he is better, but feels that he is growing old - a sensation in which I can myself well sympathize, tho' several years his junior - The weakness of my eyes still continues - more or less - & I find the evenings very long & dreary - Sometimes insupportably so, as I have no one to converse with, & am rarely able to read with comfort - after 7 or 7 1/2 o'clock, in the evening - I have only the alternative of the Sofa - which interferes with my night's rest - or actually going to bed - which is no better - I thank you for your kind remarks & enquiries respecting my daughter - whom, however, I have scarcely seen during the summer - She only returned to the City, with my sons, about a fortnight ago,

at their house - which was to have been ready for them in Sept. - was not completed until the 20<sup>th</sup> of Nov. ! They are now very busy in furnishing it - & I see but little of them. My daughter is quite convalescent, but very thin, & apparently far from strong. My son is in robust health, & is really a very fine young man, of the extraordinary weight of 197 lbs. (I mean extraordinary at his years) - What you tell me of your excellent father's happiness, in his new connection; & the satisfaction of yourself & family in the alliance, is highly gratifying to me, & I trust that many bright years are in store for you all. I shall rejoice to welcome you home, if I am here - though I dare not promise myself the happiness of visiting you, at Cambridge, next Autumn, as you so kindly propose. I suppose you know more of the movements of our good friend the Doctor, than I can tell you. Dr. Docton is in Town, I think, as he is now lecturing at the College - but it is 5 or 6 weeks since I saw him (at a farewell dinner given to D.<sup>r</sup> Alexander, by my Mother - the D.<sup>r</sup> sailed for Eng<sup>l</sup> 22 Oct.) <sup>Herbert</sup> Mr. Docton & Maggie, are with Mr. Ward - somewhere near Albany, I believe - where they are to remain for the best part of the winter - Eliza is spending her mornings, helping H. Grant at the library, which she has done for 3 or 4 months past - boarding somewhere in Broadway - & Lane is on a visit to her Aunt here - Mr. Robert - but I believe she does not stop thro' the winter. Thus the family are all scattered, & I rarely see any of them - well as I love them all. I believe the Doctor has done no Botany lately - at least, I have not heard him talk of having anything particular in hand. I grieve to say that I thought Mr. Docton looked very feeble & emaciated when she passed thro' the City - some 5 or 6 weeks ago - She has been more or less indisposed throughout the whole summer - This is all my news ! I have been in Town all the past season, & have seen no person or thing of any interest to you, or the good Doctor - I am glad that the bundle of (Chapman) plants arrived safely - I had hoped that I might have sent some, from other quarters, but I have received none since I

forwarded the last package -

"Free Soil" is dead - "Union Meetings" (so called) are being held every where - Boston not excepted ! - & the cause of humanity - of the oppressed Negro - now laws before the clamour of the fanatics - of the interested politicians, & dealers in Cotton & Sugar, States & the interested politicians, & dealers in Cotton & Sugar, throughout the U. S. - If human rights be not a fallacy, I think Mess<sup>rs</sup> Webster - Fillmore &c. have much to answer for - However, the question, if not at rest, is out of fashion (!) for the time being - & the "Cotton lords" are rampant. A member of Congress, called on me 2 days since, on his way to Washington, from him I learnt that the complexion of the Senate was not materially changed by the recent elections, & that ~~any~~ <sup>the</sup> repeal or any modification of the iniquitous "Fugitive Slave Law" could not possibly pass that body, even if it were carried thro' the lower house, which last he thought quite probable. You will forgive this little bit of Politics - partly as a "Free-Sailer" yourself, & partly, as your good man may not have an opportunity of seeing Amer.<sup>n</sup> Newspapers during your stay with the kind & hospitable Bentham - should my letter find you still there, as I anticipate. There are so many "last words" in connection with such a job as D.<sup>r</sup> Gray has in hand, that 6 weeks elapse very quickly - & 6 additional ones may not be found in much for the comfortable investigation of all the reserved quiddities.

My eyes being more than satisfied with the length of my letter I shall relieve them & you by only adding that I am, with much love, Yr. affe. Servant

Mr. Carey  
New York  
Dec. 2nd, '58.

paid. Per Steamer Niagara.

Prof. A. Gray.

Care of Messrs. Brown Shipley & Co  
Liverpool.

NEW YORK  
DEC 2 1858

RECEIVED  
DEC 5 1858



for Miss G.

ms  
1